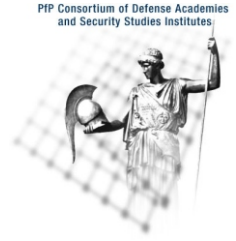


Anja H. Ebnöther  
Philipp H. Fluri

# **After Intervention: Public Security Management in Post-Conflict Societies - From Intervention to Sustainable Local Ownership**

**PfP Consortium Working Group  
“Security Sector Reform”**





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## ***Introduction***

# Introduction

The transition from interventionist (military) peace-keeping to local (civilian) ownership of public security management has proved not only to be a severe challenge for most peace-keeping operations and their civilian administrators, but also a reason for such operations being prolonged at tremendous cost. In many cases, peace-keeping operations and/or other international agents rapidly became part of the local economy, and thus contributed to the preservation of the *status quo* rather than to a sustainable process leading toward local governance; meanwhile local police organs - often remnants of the winning force in the antecedent conflict - remained tribal or clannish in their approaches and interests. They could thus hardly be seen as enforcement agencies of a law which remains equally applied to all citizens.

What seems to be needed instead of the scenario described above is a democratically overseen, systematic and cumulative process which involves confidence-building, legal, cultural (values) and institutional elements; each of which may need to be interpreted differently at different stages of the process: from utter local alienation from existing security structures to functional local ownership of public security management.

Against this background, DCAF invited practitioners and researchers to reflect on how to improve the prospects and parameters for local ownership of public security management and transitional justice in post-conflict contexts. DCAF convened the designated authors twice (in 2004 in Budapest and in 2005 in Riga) in cooperation with two associate institutions - the Centre for Strategic Studies at Zrinyi National Defence University/Budapest, and the Latvian Ministry of Defence. The value added of these conferences was to have brought in the structured views and perspectives of both providers and users of public security management and to have them discussed in the light of lessons learned from other current post-conflict reconstruction areas.

A first group of contributors were tasked to look into issues with reference to post-conflict security institution building and local ownership thereof.

A second group of authors with concrete geographical foci were tasked to contribute area studies, consisting of the following:

- Brief descriptions of the political situation in the conflict/post-conflict area;
- Brief descriptions of the main political factors affecting internal security issues;
- Brief descriptions of the main public security issues;
- Descriptions of the local and national agencies tasked with public security management (including structure) including means and instruments used;
- Assessments of the local and national agencies tasked with public security management;
- Descriptions of local responses to state public security strategies;
- Brief descriptions of the regional and international actors present in the country;
- Brief descriptions of the mandates of regional and international actors present in the country;
- Assessment of the regional and international actors' contribution to public security management;

Special attention was given to the assessment of the interaction between international and local actors on public security issues, along the lines of the following questions:

- What form does their cooperation take?
- What are the benefits of that cooperation?
- What are the problems affecting cooperation?
- What steps could be taken to enhance cooperation?



The conclusions the contributors were asked to formulate reflect the varied nature of the conflicts, peace-keeping and post-conflict arrangements. The editors urged them to concentrate on the following questions

- What are the most problematic public security issues in the country concerned?
- Have local law-enforcement agencies addressed those issues?
- Have international organisations addressed those issues?
- Which public security strategies have been successful?
- Should any public security strategies not have been used?
- What needs to be done by local and international organisations to increase public security?

A very profound, extensive and conclusive analytical report was provided by Dr. Eirin Mobekk for which the editors are most appreciative. Further thanks go to Dr. Ferenc Molnar (Budapest) and to Mr. Janis Karlsbergs (Riga) for their kind support of the research effort, and to Mr. Eden Cole for valuable research inputs. Ms. Karin Grimm (DCAF) expertly formatted and edited the original texts with Ms. Melissa George carrying out final copy-editing.

Geneva, July 2005

The Editors